

Leith Conference

Employment and Our Local Economy - Day 1

- More Awareness in Community Needed Regarding Existing Services + Support That Can Enable People to Get into Employment or Prepare for It e.g. employability mentors / volunteering 4
- Use of Unused Space / Retail Space, Spaces for Start Ups / Pop Ups (Sainsburys Corner [on LW] / Police Boxes etc. / Affordable) 3
- Better Networking Means Organisations Engage with Those Looking for Work and can Signpost Them to Further Help + Opportunities or Even Trading e.g. dedicated Facebook group for Leith companies + orgs maybe titled 'Leith Works' that can talk of all things. 2

Now

A lot going on but not all connected
Good precedent of independent traders but big threat from chains
Community councils lack clout – [influence the] politicians, planning, markers
Mix of industry + amenity, car workshops, blacksmiths, wood yard. Access without car journey, variety of employment.

Soon

Better data (census is 2011 info)
Interaction with community by developers. Much more proactive info e.g. Big Info Boards engagement from before start of planning process. Developers have massive teams + can come back again + again vs community low in resource + no appeal for community, just for developers
How can young and old people live here, make their home in affordable way
Can we gazzump development to meet MASSIVE demand for social housing – Q. to council what can you do?

Future

Campaigns – Buy local, thought planning? Safeguard independent + incentivise
Our own Local Assembly - *Legislation*
Local Place Plan – foremost not just 'due regard' - *Legislation*
Information/ Conversation + consensus not just compact re planning /development
Keep variety of amenity + business + variety of jobs.

If we did one thing ... Have a business strategy to train and develop skills + keep a wide range of independent shops + services + manufacturing in Leith.

If we did one thing ... More Networking and Community Awareness for all Stakeholders